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With reference to Tello's statement that Mexico is "prepared to accept" a 6-mile territorial sea and 3-mile exclusive fishing zone, it is believed this remark may not have been a mistaken reference on his part, as suggested by the Embassy, but instead may express Tello's actual understanding of the commitment he made during the visit of President Lopez Mateos that Mexico would, upon failure of its 3-to-12 proposal to gain adoption, "work for any reasonable solution which would obtain" the necessary two-thirds majority. In the context of a preceding discussion with Tello, during the Washington visit, of the proposal outlined in Paragraph 2 (d) of CA-5340, this commitment by Tello appeared at that time to embrace eventual support of the proposal in 2 (d) and was so interpreted by the US, though hitherto with some uncertainty. The Department believes this recent statement by Tello may therefore confirm this to have been his intent, supplemented by knowledge on Tello's part of queries by Department officials to Ambassador Carillo Flores implying the US under this proposal would be prepared not to claim "historic rights" within a 9-mile zone of the Mexican coast, in return for Mexican support, and probably a presumption that this arrangement would continue to be obtainable. The Embassy should, in its discretion, state that the US has been pleased to receive these recent statements by Tello in confirmation of his earlier ones in Washington.

In pursuing discussion with Under Secretary Gorostiza of the US fall-back proposal in Paragraph 2 (e) of CA-5340, the Embassy should avoid the effect of detracting from this commitment by Tello. If deemed to offer a reasonable possibility of success, however, the Embassy should explore to what extent this fall-back formula may provide a basis for a firm pre-Conference agreement or understanding with Mexico which would deflect Mexican support from its 3-to-12 proposal.

H E R T E R

HERTER

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